

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5466

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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SUBJECT: ASST PROFS SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO REGIME

1. ON MARCH 31 GOVT, AMID MUCH FANFARE, HELD CEREMONY IN MADRID THEATER IN WHICH SOME 1,100 UNIVERSITY ASSISTANT PROFESSORS PUBLICLY SWORE ALLEGIANCE TO THE CHIEF OF STATE, TO SPAIN'S NATIONAL MOVEMENT, AND TO ITS FUNDAMENTAL LAWS, AFTER WHICH EDUCATION MINISTER VILLAR GAVE A SPEECH WHICH, INTER ALIA, CONDEMNED STUDENT DISORDERS.

2. THIS ACT SIMULTANEOUSLY MARKED THE CREATION OF A NEW CORPS OF ASSISTANT PROFS WITH AT LEAST FIVE YEARS OF UN-INTERRUPTED SERVICE AS ENVISAGED IN THE 1971 EDUCATIONAL REFORM LAW, WHICH CORPS WILL HAVE LIFETIME TENURE AND ANNUAL SALARIES. SUCH A CORPS WILL MARK A CHANGE FROM THE EXISTING SITUATION, WHEREBY ALL ASST PROFS HAVE BEEN HIRED ON A YEAR- BY- YEAR CONTRACT BASIS AND HAVE BEEN PAID THEIR WAGES AT IRREGULAR INTERVALS.

3. COMMENT: THIS CEREMONY REPRESENTED A CLEVER MANEUVER BY THE GOVT TO SPLIT THE ASST PROFS (WHO HAVE BEEN PARTIALLY BEHIND THE CURRENT WAVE OF UNIVERSITY AGITATION IN SPAIN, IN PART BECAUSE OF PROFESSIONAL GRIEVANCES RELATING TO JOB SECURITY) INTO TWO GROUPS, AS WELL AS TO EMPLOY THE " CARROT-
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AND- STICK" TECHNIQUE. THE GOVT HAS THUS GRANTED A SIGNIFICANT CONCESSION TO DEMANDS OF ASST PROFS BY GRANTING A PRIVILEGED MINORITY AMONGST THEM THEIR LONG- SOUGHT TENURE, BUT AT THE PRICE OF MAKING THEM PUBLICLY SWEAR THEIR ALLEGIANCE IN A MOVE DESIGNED TO MAKE THEM TOW THE GOVT'S LINE. ALTHOUGH FULL AND ASSOCIATE PROFS HAVE ALWAYS HAD TO SWEAR SUCH ALLEGIANCE, AS HAVE ALL GOVT CIVIL SERVANTS, ASST PROFS (THEORETICALLY BECAUSE OF THEIR CONTRACTUAL STATUS) HAVE NEVER BEFORE BEEN REQUIRED TO DO SO.

4. FURTHER SUCH CEREMONIES OF PUBLIC ALLEGIANCE MAY TAKE PLACE AS OTHER ASST PROFS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE NEW CORPS. THE NET EFFECT WILL BE THE CREATION OF TWO GROUPS OF ASST PROFS, I. E., AN " ELITE" CONSISTING OF THOSE WITH MORE THAN FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE WHO HAVE BEEN ASKED TO JOIN, WILL HAVE TO SWEAR ALLEGIANCE, BUT WILL BE GRANTED TENURE, AND THOSE (A MAJORITY OF SPAIN' 30,000 ASST PROFS) WITH EITHER LESS THAN FIVE YEARS SERVICE, OR WHO WILL NOT BE WILLING TO SO SWEAR, OR WHO WILL NOT BE INVITED TO JOIN (AMONG THESE WOULD BE MOST OF THE YOUNG " RADICALS" AMONG THE ASST PROFS) AND WHO WILL CONTINUE IN THE UNCERTAIN CONTRACTUAL STATUS THAT THEY HAVE IN THE PAST AND THUS BE SUBJECT TO GOVT PRESSURES AT ALL TIMES.

5. THE GOVT'S USE OF THE TECHNIQUE OF REQUIRING SUCH " LOYALTY OATHS" FOR BRINGING RECALCITRANT SECTORS INTO LINE, IS ALSO REPORTEDLY CONTAINED IN A DRAFT LAW WHICH THE GOVT HAS ANNOUNCED IT IS SUBMITTING TO THE CORTES REGARDING THE REGULATION OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS. ALTHOUGH THIS DRAFT LAW HAS NOT YET APPEARED IN THE CORTES BULLETIN OR IN THE PRESS, IT REPORTEDLY WILL, INTER ALIA, MAKE CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE IN ALL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS FOR THE FIRST TIME SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT, ETC. THIS DRAFT LAW IS PARTICULARLY DESIGNED TO CURB THE POLITICIZED ACTIVITIES OF THE MADRID AND PROVINCIAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS AS WELL AS OF OTHER PROFESSIONAL BODIES (E. G., OF ECONOMISTS, ARCHITECTS, ETC.).
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